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EPISCOPOLOGY OF PORTO RICO

*A Catalogue of the Bishops who have occupied this See, including Bishops-elect who did not take possession*¹

I. May, 1513. **Dr. Don Alonso Manso.** Secular priest. Native of Becerril de Campos. Licentiate in Theology. Chief sacristan of the Chapel of the Sermo, Prince Don Juan. Canon magistral² of Salamanca. First bishop of Porto Rico and first Inquisitor General of the Indies (first bishop in America). Chosen by Pope Julius II for the Magutensian see (island of Hispaniola) by the bull *Illius fulciti praesidio*, dated November 16, 1504, which did not take effect. Nominated by the Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Juana, by virtue of the bull *Universalis Ecclesiae* of July 28, 1508, which conceded to the kings If Castile and Leon the perpetual right of patronage and nomination for the ondiés. Chosen bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Julius II by the Bull *Romanus Pontifex* of August 8, 1511, establishing this diocese. Entered into a concordat with the Catholic Monarchs in Burgos, May 8, 1512. Established his cathedral from the archiepiscopal palace of Seville, his metropolitan See, Sunday, September 26, 1512. Took possession of his diocese in May, 1513. Named Inquisitor General of the Indies January 7, 1519. Nomination ratified by Catholic Monarchs May 20, 1520. Founded hospital of San Ildefonso for the poor, according to the wish of the Catholic Monarchs, and in it a grammar school (Humanities) which was the first educational institution in Porto Rico. Consecrated in his cathedral in 1529 the bishop-elect of Santo Domingo, Don Sebastián Ramírez de Fuenleal, president of the Real Audiencia (first consecration held in the New World). Died September 27, 1539. Buried in his cathedral, on the gospel side. His tomb, of alabaster, with his statue, recumbent, a lamb at his feet, existed until 1625, when it was destroyed by the Dutch, when they sacked and burned the city.

II. July, 1542. **Don Rodrigo de Bastidas y Rodríguez de Romera.** Secular priest. Native of Santo Domingo, according to contemporary documents, and of Seville, according to an investigation made by Brau. Son of the discoverer of Tierra-Firme and first "*adelantado*"³ and governor and captain-general of Santa Marta, Rodrigo de Bastidas. Dean of Santo Domingo and many times purveyor and vicar-general *in sede vacante* and *plena*. First bishop of Coro and Venezuela (1532-1540). Governor of Venezuela *ad interim* (1540-1542). Nominated for the see of Porto Rico by the emperor Charles V, Sep-

¹ This valuable document was compiled by Ángel Paniagua Oller for the volume *Sinodo Diocesano del Obispado de Puerto Rico*, published in Porto Rico, 1917. The translation is the work of Henry Grattan Doyle, A. M. (Harvard), Instructor in Spanish, the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

² A "canónigo magistral" is the holder of a canonry the occupant of which must have attained the doctorate.

³ The "*adelantado*" was the governor of an outlying, newly settled country.

tember 16, 1540. Chosen and preconized in Rome by Pope Paul III, 1541. Took possession of his diocese in July, 1542. Planned the construction of the present cathedral upon bases of sumptuous grandeur, but lacking the necessary resources its building remained at a standstill after the completion of the main chapel and its appurtenances, as well as the two lateral chapels, reducing the plan for its construction for the future. In his time (January 31, 1545) by bull of Pope Paul III, the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo became metropolitan See of Porto Rico, which diocese had been up to then suffragan of that of Seville. Held in 1547 the first synod of Porto Rico. "A person of great capacity and great reputation, and a great ecclesiastic, and of very good life." He was called in his time "the good bishop." He promoted public instruction very much; he asked of the emperor the abolition of the Holy Office in the island and solicited tax exemptions for agriculture and the reduction of the administrative personnel. Gave Holy Orders to the first four young Porto Ricans, sons of conquistadores and first settlers, to follow the ecclesiastical state, pupils of the grammar school (Escuela de Gramática) and of the classes in theology established by the Preaching Friars in the Convent of Santo Tomás de Aquino (St. Thomas Aquinas). Because of his advanced age he resigned this diocese May 6, 1567, remaining in Santo Domingo to live a retired life on the income of the considerable fortune left him there by his father, the adelantado, of which he made the most charitable use. He was not (as Fr. Iñigo Abbad says erroneously, confusing him with his successor Don Francisco Andrés de Carvajal) promoted to the archiepiscopal See of Santo Domingo, for there is no document to support this, nor does he figure among the prelates of that metropolitan See, occupied at that time by Don Francisco Juan de Aleolares, Dominican. Died before 1570, being buried in the chapel belonging to his family in the cathedral of Santo Domingo, it being possible to read on his tomb the words "*Epis. S. Joanni*," which proves our assertion.

III. Don Francisco Andrés de Carvajal. Franciscan. Native of Alcántara. Student at the College of San Pedro y San Pablo of Alcalá. Guardian of the Franciscan monasteries of Guadalajara and Alcalá. Confessor of the queen, Doña Isabel de la Paz. Preconized June 2, 1568, Governed the diocese scarcely a year. Promoted to the Archbishopric of Santo Domingo November 4, 1568, receiving the pallium July 19, 1570, and died in his archdiocese in 1586. As, apparently, this bishop was only at the head of the diocese for the term of approximately one year, being promoted immediately to the metropolitan See of the Indies, doubtless on that account his brief pontificate, with the lapse of years, has passed unnoticed by the chroniclers, his memory being forgotten and his personality confused with that of his predecessor Bishop Bastidas, attributing to the latter the rise and promotion of Carvajal, and suppressing the name of Carvajal in the catalogue of the bishops of Porto Rico. We suppose it to be on this account that he has not figured until the present in the various indices and catalogues of the prelates who have governed this diocese.

IV. March, 1572. Maestro Don Fr. Manuel de Mercado. Member of the order of St. Jerome. Chosen bishop of Porto Rico and preconized in Rome by Pope St. Pius V, December 15, 1570. Consecrated in Seville. Took possession

of his diocese in March, 1572. Found the island in a great economic crisis, for which he urged reasonable remedies. Severe in ecclesiastical discipline, he put a stop to abuses and corrupt practices which arose during the prolonged inoccupancy of the see which preceded his pontificate. He was trying to group in one town the settlers scattered along the banks of the Coamo, when he was promoted to the see of Panama by the bull of Pope Gregory XIII, granted in the consistory held March 28, 1576, and received in July, 1577.

V. August 17, 1577. **Don Fr. Diego de Salamanca.** Augustinian. Chosen and preconized by Pope Gregory XIII. Took possession of his diocese August 17, 1577, landing at the port of Guánica. Carried out the project of his predecessor, erecting the parish church of Coamo and obtaining in July, 1579, the royal charter of foundation of said town, with the name of San Blas de Illescas. Constructed with his own funds the exterior steps of the cathedral, and established and blessed the cemetery of the cathedral, which existed until 1813 on the present site of the building which the houses of the legislature occupy. Renewed the inquisitorial procedure suppressed during the episcopacies of Bastidas, Carvajal, and Mercado. Resigned the mitre in 1587, and returned to Spain, leaving in Porto Rico a niece whom he brought with him, Doña Ana de Salamanca, married to Juan Ponce de León y Loáisa, great-grandson of the famous conquistador, whereby the succession of this house was continued.

VI. January 12, 1591. **Don Fr. Nicolás de Ramos y Santos.** Franciscan. Born in Villasabariego, near Carrión de los Condes, December 6, 1531. Son of parents of the poorer class, only the precocious intelligence and quite unusual talent of this illustrious prelate could have facilitated his career, and brought about the dignity to which he attained. Student in the college of San Pedro y San Pablo (Alcalá de Henares). While sub-deacon he took the habit at the Franciscan monastery at Valladolid, March 16, 1546. Professed May 17, 1550. Professor of Theology among the religious of his order. Obtained great fame with his work: *Assertionem Veteris Vulgatae Lectionis Juxta Decretum Sacrosancti Concilii Tridentini*, of which part 1 was published in Salamanca in 1576 and part 2 in Valladolid in 1577. His erudite work, *De Regulis Sacrae Scripturae*, proclaims his vast learning. Chosen provincial of La Concepción in 1579, he remained so until 1583. Nominated in May, 1588, by Philip II for the Porto Rican See, chosen and preconized in Rome by Pope Sixtus V, he took possession of his bishopric on January 12, 1591, his jurisdiction being extended as far as Cumaná. As censor of the Holy Office, he renewed the inquisitorial proceedings which his predecessor had begun, but this was the last bishop who exercised the office of Inquisitor in Porto Rico. In 1592 he was promoted to the See of Primate of the Indies, in which he died in 1599. He left written in Porto Rico a few works which the carelessness of men, rather than that of time, has not permitted us to know.

VII. **Dr. Don Antonio Calderón.** Secular priest. Native of Baeza. Arch-deacon of Santa Fé de Bogota. Chosen March 5, 1592. Took possession of his diocese in 1593. On his voyage to Porto Rico, the vessel having been boarded by an English corsair off the island of Santa Cruz, he lost the little that he

brought with him. When in November, 1595, this place¹ was attacked by a strong English fleet under the command of the celebrated corsair and admiral, Sir Francis Drake, Bishop Calderón carried out to the full the duties incumbent on him, hastening to most dangerous posts in order to exhort the defenders of the town, and assigning priests to them for divine service. Promoted to the See of Panama, he went to occupy it at the end of 1597, and from there, in 1605, to Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in the viceroyalty of Peru, where he died.

VIII. September 5, 1600. **Don Fr. Martin Vásquez de Arce.** Dominican. Native of Cuzco. Nephew of Rodrigo Vásquez de Arce, president of the royal council of Castile. Student and rector of the College of San Tomás, Seville, where he was when the bishopric was conferred upon him. Entered into his episcopate on Margarita Island, September 5, 1600, and from there proceeded to this cathedral (San Juan) in 1603. Died January 13, 1609, leaving his estate (20,000 ducats) to the church. Buried under the main altar of the cathedral, on the epistle side. If Bastidas was not the first American bishop, as contemporary documents state and Brau denies, certainly Bishop Vásquez de Arce, born in the ancient capital of the Incas, emperors of Peru, was the first American bishop of Porto Rico.

IX. **Don Fr. Alonso de Monroy.** Of the Order of Mercy. Provincial of his order in Spain, was chosen by Pope Paul V, and consecrated Bishop of Porto Rico; but he was unwilling to come to his bishopric. Died in Seville and was buried in the Convent of Mercy. In the epitaph of his tomb one reads that he was chosen Bishop of Porto Rico.

X. 1610. **Maestro Don Fr. Francisco Díaz de Cabrera y Córdoba.** Dominican. Native of Córdoba, of the illustrious line of Díaz de Cabrera, a distinguished branch of the Ponce de Cabrera family, of Córdoba; second son of Don Baltasar Díaz de Cabrera y Córdoba, eleventh Lord of the House, Castles, and Properties of Torres Cabrera, and of Doña Catalina de Corral y Frías; brother, therefore, of Don Alonso, the first-born of the House, of His Majesty's Council; and brother likewise of Don Fernando, gentleman in waiting and governor of the estates of Flanders. Monk of Santa María del Monte, on the outskirts of Córdoba. Chosen and preconized in Rome by Pope Paul V. for the Porto Rican See, he took possession of it in 1610. Promoted to the See of Trujillo, he left to occupy it in 1613.

XI. 1615. **Maestro Don Fr. Pedro de Solier y Vargas.** Augustinian. Native of the village of Barajas, in the archdiocese of Toledo, where he was born in 1574, the son of Pedro Solier de Reinosa and Doña Ynés de Vargas; descendant of Mosen Arnaldo de Solier, a French knight, who was created a grandee of Castile by the king Don Enrique II, and also descendant of the famous Jofre de Loáiza, conqueror of Córdoba. He professed in Salamanca February 13, 1594. Went to the Philippines in 1598. Expounded theology in Manila in 1603. Returned to Spain as Commissary-Procurator of the province, being made "maestro"; nominated by Felipe III for Bishop of Porto Rico, and chosen and preconized in Rome by His Holiness Paul V, November 17, 1614. Took

¹ San Juan, Porto Rico.

possession in 1615. Promoted to Archbishop of Santo Domingo by the same Pope in 1619, he died a year after his installation. In his time, September 12, 1615, occurred a terrible hurricane, which destroyed part of the roof of the Cathedral.

XII. 1623. Dr. Don Bernardo de Balbuena y Villanueva. Secular priest. Born in Valdepeñas (Ciudad Real) November 20, 1568; his parents were Gregorio de Villanueva and Doña Luisa de Balbuena, distinguished nobility of that place. He placed the maternal family name before the paternal either as just homage of consideration to his uncle and patron, Don Diego de Balbuena, canon of the cathedral of Mexico, or by obligation inherent in an heir in the female line, a frequent occurrence at that time. He went to Mexico at a tender age, and was educated there under the auspices of the aforesaid uncle, with such notable profit, that at the age of sixteen years he won a prize in the great contest held in that city in 1585. He wrote *El Bernardo*, *La Grandeza Mexicana*, and *El Siglo de Oro*¹, which brought him just and merited fame as a poet of the first order and a prose-writer of parts. Obtained the degree of Doctor of Theology in Sigüenza in 1608, and that same year was named Abbot of Jamaica, where he remained until 1620, when he was chosen Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Paul V. Consecrated in Santo Domingo in 1622 by the Most Illustrious Archbishop Don Fr. Pedro de Oviedo, he took possession of his diocese in 1623, in which year he vainly urged the erection of a nunnery for noble and poor young women, daughters and granddaughters of conquistadores, settlers, etc. Two years later he had the great grief of seeing his library and manuscripts destroyed in the sacking and burning of this place by the Dutch under the command of Baldwin Henry in which were destroyed also some of his unpublished works. Died October 11, 1627, leaving to the Church his not inconsiderable fortune, and arranging for his burial in St. Bernard's Chapel of this cathedral, which was to be constructed out of his own funds, and which is today the baptistery.

XIII. Dr. Don Juan López Agosto de la Marta. Secular priest. Native of Tenerife, learned and of serious habits, great preacher, rich and generous dean of Mérida, in Yucatan. Prebendary and doctoral canon in Tlaxcala, by competition. The date of his election and that of his coming to Porto Rico are unknown. He gave great alms to the Church and to needy people. In 1633, on his pastoral visit to the outlying parts of his diocese, being on the island of Margarita, he contributed a thousand ducats to help the Franciscans who were trying to establish a monastery on that island. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to the See of Caracas.

XIV. 1636. Dr. Don Fr. Juan Alonso de Solís y Mendoza. Carmelite. Native of Salamanca, son of Pedro de Solís and Doña María Feliche de Mendoza,

¹ *El Bernardo* is an epic treatment of the slaughter of Charlemagne's rearguard, under Roland, at Roncesvaux, in which Bernardo del Carpio, a legendary Spanish hero, is the aggressor rather than the Saracens. It ranks with *La Araucana* of Alonso de Ercilla and *La Cristiada* of Diego de Hojeda as the best of the Spanish epics. According to Quintana "no Castilian poet gives so great a margin for reproof and censure, but also perhaps none offers so many occasions for praise and admiration." The unevenness of the poem, its mingling of tiresome prolixity with passages of harmonious beauty, lofty ideas, and real poetic feeling, is due to the youth of the poet. *La Grandeza Mexicana* describes the times of the conquistadores; *El Siglo de oro en las selvas de Erifile* is a pastoral poem. (Translator.)

Señores de Cemprón, Retortillo, y la Granja, of the highest nobility of that city, whom he succeeded in their estates. Councillor of Salamanca, he married in 1593 Doña María Manrique de Lara, daughter of the Señor de las Amarjuelas, Don Bernardino Manrique de Lara. He became a widower in 1606, two daughters, Doña Feliche and Doña María, being left to him. He then renounced his estates and the world, and took the Carmelite habit at San Andrés. He was Master in Theology, preacher and definer of his province, and prior in the monastery of San Silvestre, of Ávila. Chosen and preconized at Rome by Pope Urban VIII in 1636, he took possession of his diocese in the same year, finding on the island, as governor, his nephew Don Iñigo de la Mota y Sarmiento, Knight of Santiago. He was so industrious that in the pastoral visit that he made to the outlying parts of his diocese he personally baptized more than ten thousand Indians. He died April 19, 1641, leaving his property to the Church. He was buried in the Cathedral of this city (San Juan) in the main altar and on the Gospel side, where his nephew, the governor, Don Iñigo de la Mota y Sarmiento, dedicated a slab to his memory, with a beautiful inscription in Latin.

XV. June 13, 1644. **Don Fr. Damián López de Haro y Vallalda.** Trinitarian. Native of Toledo, in whose cathedral he was baptized September 27, 1581, son of Antonio López de Haro and Doña Catalina de Valladolid. Professed in Toledo February 28, 1599, having studied there Grammar and Philosophy, and in Salamanca Sacred Theology, as a result of which he came to be an eminent theologian and professor of ecclesiastical sciences. Ministered in the monasteries of la Guardia, Zamora, Arévalo, Cuenca, Talavera and (twice) in Madrid. Visitador (inspector) in Andalusia; provincial of Castile, Leon, and Navarre, and definer of the last. The city and ecclesiastical chapter of Zamora drew up a petition to Philip IV, urging his nomination for bishop of that diocese, but His Majesty named him for that of Porto Rico; he was preconized February 9, 1644, and consecrated in the church of the Trinitarians in Madrid five days later. Arrived in Porto Rico and took possession of his diocese June 13, 1644. Held Synod in his cathedral Sunday, April 30, 1645, adopting measures to correct abuses, reform manners, and stimulate piety; and finished this synod, which was the second held in Porto Rico, May 2, it being approved by their Majesties Sept. 5 of the same year. Constructor and restorer, he erected anew the episcopal edifice, which was then in the street of San José, adjoining the cathedral, and which had been burned by the Dutch in 1625. He made his pastoral visit not only to the parishes of the island, but also to those of the annexes; and being in the island of Margarita, in August, 1648, attending with charitable solicitude those attacked by the pest which at that time overran these islands and had made 600 victims in Porto Rico, he died in the aforesaid month and year, honored by the esteem and affection of his people.

XVI. **Don Fr. Hernando de Lobo Castrillo.** Franciscan. Chosen and preconized by Pope Innocent X, he took possession of his diocese in 1650. No other data is available on this prelate, except that he died in Porto Rico on October 18, 1651, being buried in his cathedral.

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XVII. July 3, 1654. Maestro Don Fr. Francisco Naranjo. Dominican. Was in Mexico when he was chosen by Pope Innocent X, on September 3, 1652, Bishop of Porto Rico, and it was so communicated to the chapter by His Majesty in a letter of that date. On July 3, 1654, in the name and by authority of said bishop, who was still in Mexico, Canon Don Diego de Torres y Vargas, professor and vicar-general of the diocese, took possession of it. The bishop did not come. He died in Mexico October 18, 1655, news of his death reaching Porto Rico March 31, 1656, whereupon on the same day Torres Vargas presented his resignation as governor of the bishopric, but the chapter reelected him immediately.

XVIII. May 30, 1659. Don Francisco Arnaldo de Issasi. Chosen by Pope Innocent X, December 25, 1657. Took possession of the mitre through his representative, the Licentiate Don José de Bilbao y Bracamonte, on February 25, 1659, and personally on his arrival May 30 following. By his exaggerated punctiliousness in matters of ritual and etiquette on the stated feasts, he caused the people, following the governor, Don José de Novas y Moscoso, to abandon the church on said feasts, the preachers not having anyone to whom to address their sermons. He died April 4, 1651.

XIX. Dr. Don Manuel de Molinedo. Chosen Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Innocent X, in 1663, but did not come to his bishopric, thereby continuing the ecclesiastical government of this diocese in charge of the dean, Don Diego de Torres y Vargas Zapata, elected by the chapter on April 4, 1661.

XX. June 21, 1664. Don Fr. Benito de Rivas. Benedictine, of the monastery of San Pedro de Cerdeña. Chosen and preconized by Pope Innocent X June 4, 1663, he took possession of his diocese June 21, 1664. He brought to his cathedral precious relics of the martyrs of Cerdeña, which are preserved to this day in his reliquary, and to which he dedicated a chapel which he had built in the cathedral. On the twentieth of September, 1665, on absenting himself for his pastoral visit, he named as ecclesiastical governor the dean, Don Diego de Torres y Vargas. He died August 27, 1668.

XXI. April 27, 1671. Don Fr. Bartolomé García de Escañuela. Franciscan. Chosen by Pope Clement X, he authorized the president of the ecclesiastical chapter of the diocese to take possession of the See in his name, which was done on April 27, 1671, and later personally took possession on August 24, 1673. He ordered the taking of a statistical census of the diocese, which is the only one that we possess of the XVIIth century, and which the parish priest Don Juan Guilarte de Salazar carried out by his command. Promoted to the See of Durango, in Mexico, during his absence the ecclesiastical chapter, having received official news of the appointment, declared this bishopric a vacant See June 5, 1676.

XXII. February 20, 1679. Dr. Don Marcos Arista de Sobremonte. Secular priest. Native of Caracas. Chosen by Pope Innocent XI, the dean, Don Luis Muriel y Castro, took possession in his name and by his order February 20, 1679. On January 24, 1680 he gave to the chapter statutes of his own, obliging all to a strict fulfilment of their duties. Died at Cumaná August 10,

1681; but because of lack of news, the See was not declared vacant until May 6, 1682, the chapter electing as governor of the diocese, Archdeacon Don Cristóbal de Pastrana.

XXIII. June 23, 1684. Don Fr. Francisco de Padilla. Mendicant. Native of Peru. Took possession June 23, 1684. Vigorous, upright, brilliant, charitable, he cast out of the cathedral church the inappropriate mulatto dancing choirboys, who profaned that holy place. Handled the church funds with extreme exactness; arranged the ritual of the feasts and holy offices in conformity with the sacred canons; and in 1690, because of a horrible epidemic of African smallpox, which cut off a great number of lives, he established in his house a free apothecary's shop and provided food for the needy, going in person to the aid of the dying when the number of priests was diminished by the pest. Promoted to the See of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in his native land, the See was declared vacant May 5, 1695, and on May 7 the precentor, Dr. Don Martín Calderón de la Barca y Quijano, was elected capitulary vicar.

XXIV. Don Fr. Bartolomé García. Chosen Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Innocent XII in 1696, he did not reach his bishopric; the vicar, Dr. Don Martín Calderón de la Barca, who had been promoted to the archdeaconship, continued to govern the diocese from September 13 of that year.

XXV. Maestro Don Fr. Gerónimo Valdés. Basilian monk. Native of Gerona. Chosen Bishop of Porto Rico, but before taking possession was promoted to the See of Santiago de Cuba, and consecrated in Madrid December 23, 1705; arrived in Baracoa in 1706. Died in Havana March 29, 1729, at the age of eighty-three years.

XXVI. Don Fr. Urbano López. Trinitarian. Bishop of Porto Rico, he resigned the bishopric without going to the diocese.

XXVII. May 19, 1706. Don Fr. Pedro de la Concepción Urtiaga y Salazar. Franciscan. Native of Querétaro, in the vice-royalty of New Spain. Chosen Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Clement XI, he was consecrated in his native land, where he remained some time without being able to come to his diocese. Took possession May 19, 1706. He issued the penalty of excommunication against those who, under the pretext of amusements and horse-races on the feasts of Saint John and Saint James, committed scandalous and demoralizing excesses. Drew up constitutions, and established a conciliar college in the Hospital of la Concepción, but it did not have success. Held a diocesan synod in his cathedral June 18, 1713, the third celebrated in Porto Rico; but doubtless did not publish the synodal report, and it is not known what was agreed in it, nor if it was approved by His Majesty, as that of López de Haro was. This bishop, energetic, industrious, and intelligent, died in his diocese in 1713, and is buried with the other bishops in the cathedral.

XXVIII. Don Fr. Raimundo Caballero. Cistercian Benedictine. Came to Porto Rico, and died within two or three months, without being consecrated.

XXIX. June, 1719. Dr. Maestro Don Fr. Fernando de Valdivia y Mendoza. Augustinian. Chosen by Pope Clement XI. Came to Porto Rico and took possession of his diocese in June, 1719. Defended and protected, as

Bishop Urtiaga had done, Captain Henríquez, iniquitously persecuted by the governor, *ad interim*, Dario Granados, in conspiracy with the treasurer Pozo, whom the bishop accused before His Majesty. This virtuous prelate died on Sunday, November 25, 1725, Dr. Don Martín Calderón de la Barca y Quijano, dean, qualifier of the Holy Office, purveyor, and vicar-general, remaining as governor of the diocese as a vacant See.

XXX. August, 1728. **Don Fr. Sebastián Lorenzo Pizarro.** Basilian monk. Chosen by Pope Benedict XIII. Took possession in August, 1728. He was the first bishop who in his visit to the provinces reached the Orinoco, where the natives, Carib Indians, had killed a French bishop who tried to establish himself among them. He purchased of Doña María de Amézquita y Ayala the houses where he built the episcopal palace, and went to live in it in 1733, a decision which His Majesty approved by royal cedula of November 1, 1738, devolving after his death, which occurred July 23, 1736; Don Juan Lorenzo de Matos, purveyor and vicar-general, commissary of the Holy Crusade, remaining as governor of the diocese as a vacant See.

XXXI. 1738. **Don Fr. Francisco Pérez Lozano.** Basilian monk. Chosen by Pope Clement XII. Entered Porto Rico in the year 1738. Went to Caracas to be consecrated, and afterwards made a visit to the provinces. Died on the island of Trinidad before returning from his consecration; and Canon Don Francisco Martínez, named provisory judge and vicar-general by the ecclesiastical chapter as soon as it had word of the death of Bishop Pérez Lozano, which occurred in 1741, remained as governor of the diocese as a vacant See.

XXXII. April, 1745. **Don Fr. Francisco Plácido de Bejar y Segura.** Basilian monk. Chosen and preconized in Rome by Pope Benedict XIV, he took possession of his diocese in April, 1745, and after great disappointments, caused by a brother, he died two months later, without having been consecrated, June 24 of the same year, being buried in the sacristy of the main chapel of his cathedral.

XXXIII. **Don José Martínez.** Secular priest. Canon of Caracas. Chosen Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Benedict XIV, he did not accept the charge.

XXXIV. December 18, 1749. **Don Francisco Julián de Antolino.** Secular priest. Prebendary of Palencia. Chosen Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Benedict XIV he took possession of his diocese December 18, 1749. Promoted to the diocese of Santa Ana, in Venezuela, in March, 1753.

XXXV. **Don Pedro Martínez de Óneca.** Secular priest. Native of Gallipienzo in the valley of Aibar, in Navarre. Chosen January 7, 1756. Visited the whole diocese. In his zeal to elevate morals and defend the humble, he overstepped the limits marked by the royal patronage of the Indies, and as the governor, Guazo, firmly maintained his prerogatives, the bishop excommunicated him: an extreme measure, which would have brought serious consequences, had not both contenders died, Bishop Óneca on April 22, 1760.

XXXVI. 1762. **Don Mariano Martí.** Secular priest. Native of Catalonia. Chosen by Pope Clement XIII, he took possession of his bishopric in 1762. Visited the whole diocese. Greatly improved the cathedral, in which

he built the finest chapel. Consecrated in the latter the Bishop of Comayagua. Was very zealous for ecclesiastical discipline, and a lover of the poor. Was promoted to Caracas, where he died Feb. 20, 1792, the precentor Don José Maysonet remaining as capitular vicar in the vacant See.

XXXVII. Don José Duarte. Chosen Bishop of Porto Rico, he died without coming to his diocese, which the aforesaid precentor Don José Maysonet continued to govern, as a vacant See.

XXXVIII. May 25, 1772. Don Fr. Manuel Jiménez Pérez. Benedictine monk, of the monastery of Santa Maria la Real of Nájera. Native of the village of Soto, in la Rioja. Chosen by Pope Clement XIV in 1770, the ecclesiastical chapter was informed of it on February 14, 1771. He reached Porto Rico May 25, 1772, and took possession of his cathedral on the first of June following. He made his pastoral visit to the adjunct islands and provinces as far as the upper Orinoco; gave many ornaments, chalices, and other alms for monasteries and for repairing different churches; erected many parishes; built at his own expense and endowed the Hospital of Our Lady of the Conception, with a capacity of five hundred beds for as many patients; rebuilt the episcopal palace which had been in ruins for many years; visited a second time the churches of the island and had missions preached every year for all the towns of his widespread diocese; suffered with admirable mildness and constancy persecutions and opposition in order to protect the poor and to lessen concubinage and scandals. He was affable with all, humble and modest in his mien; he never left off the habit and way of life of the cloister, practicing the same observance as if he lived in it. On Sunday of each week he sent all the money that there was in his palace to the charities which he designated, leaving most of the time not even the bare necessities for his house to eat the following day. He died August 20, 1781, and was buried in the presbytery of the cathedral. There is extant an oil painting of him, made by the Porto Rican painter, José Campeche.

XXXIX. August 30, 1785. Dr. Don Felipe José de Trespalacios y Verdeja. Secular priest. Native of Avilés. Chosen by Pope Pius VI on June 25, 1784, and consecrated in the cathedral of Santo Domingo. Took possession of the See August 30, 1785. Consecrated in his cathedral, in August, 1788, the illustrious Fr. Fernando de Cadiñana. Occupied his See until 1789, when he went to the island of Cuba, where he died October 16, 1799, being the first bishop of the new See of Havana.

XL. July 11, 1790. Dr. Don Francisco de la Cuerda. Secular priest. Chosen Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Clement VI, he took possession July 11, 1790. Consecrated, on May 27, 1792, the bishop-elect of Guiana, Dr. Don Francisco de Ibarra, and on December 22 of the same year, the Most Illustrious Sr. Don Remigio de la Santa. Proposed a geographical plan of the island, indicating the best sites for founding towns and churches. He wished to make the church of Santa Ana into a parish. In May (according to Brau on June 1) of 1795, he resigned his bishopric.

XLI. March 30, 1796. Don Fr. Juan Bautista de Zengotita y Bengoa. Mendicant. Native of Berriz, in Vizcaya. Chosen by Pope Sixtus VI on June

2, 1795, and consecrated in Madrid November 14 of the same year, he took possession of his See on March 30, 1796. To him fell the lot of witnessing and contributing to the glorious defense of Porto Rico, attacked in April and May, 1797, by an English army under the command of Lord Ralph Abercromby, and by a fleet of sixty vessels commanded by Sir Henry Hawey. Died November 1, 1802, being buried in his cathedral in the chapel of St. John Nepocumene, today the chapel of Jesus the Nazarene; the dean Don Juan Lorenzo de Matos Colón, provisory judge and vicar-general of the diocese, remaining as governor of the See.

XLII. July 27, 1803. **Dr. Don Juan Alejo de Arizmendi y de la Torre.** Secular priest. Native of San Juan de Puerto Rico. The first, and until the present, the only Porto Rican who has enjoyed this dignity in his native land. Born July 17, 1757. Son of Don Miguel Antonio de Arizmendi, Regidor Perpetuo (life councillor) of this city (San Juan), and of Doña Juana Isabel de la Torre y de Castro, of the most ancient and distinguished nobility of Porto Rico. Studied theology and canon law in the University of Caracas, where Bishop Don Mariano Martí, who had been bishop of this diocese (XXXVI) ordained him as deacon. Received the priesthood in Santo Domingo, capital of Hispaniola, at the hands of the bishop-elect of Porto Rico, Dr. Don Felipe José de Trespalacios (XXXIX), who had gone to that cathedral to be consecrated, and accompanied the bishop on his voyage to Porto Rico, being shipwrecked off the shores of Arecibo July 16, 1785. Confessor and director of the Carmelite nuns. Bishop Don Francisco de la Cuerda (XL) named him purveyor and vicar-general of the diocese. Without his asking it and without consulting his wishes, he was recommended by His Majesty to Pope Pius VII for the episcopate of this island on March 13, 1803, and having been appointed and preconized in Rome as Bishop of Porto Rico, was consecrated in the cathedral of Caracas, taking possession of his diocese on July 27, 1803, amid the enthusiasm and congratulations of his fellow-countrymen. This worthy prelate was simple, modest, and amiable; he maintained with firm hand ecclesiastical discipline and morals, of which he himself had always given the highest example. He bought with certain church revenues and with his private funds the large plot where the Conciliar Seminary is, in order to devote it to this end, and seconding the initiative of Bishop Zengotita (XLI), zealously undertook the establishment and construction of the said seminary, a noble plan which his early death prevented him from seeing realized, and which remained suspended until the time of Bishop Gutiérrez de Cos, who was able to finish it. This virtuous prelate had the sad prevision of his own death; on taking leave of the cathedral clergy, to go up to the island on his pastoral visit (September 6, 1812), he said with emotion, "until we meet in the Vale of Jehosaphat." After going over almost all of the island, he fell ill at Hormigueros, in whose modest hermitage he always desired to be buried, but his friends wished to bring him to his palace, which his grave state of health did not permit; he died at Arecibo on October 12, 1814, being buried provisionally in the hermitage of Monserrate. The following year (March 31, 1815), his remains were translated, to be buried permanently in

his cathedral, in the chapel of St. Bernard, today the baptistery, where they still rest. The slab which covers his mortal remains bears the following epitaph: *Hic, Amabilis, Religiosus, Integer, Zelotipus, Misericors, Eruditus, Novator, Decoratus, Impigerque, Primus, Antistes, Patrius, Jacet. R. I. P.* To govern the diocese as vacant See the chapter named the licentiate Don Nicolás Alonso de Andrade y San Juan, precentor, purveyor, and vicar-general.

XLIII. February 16, 1817. **Dr. Don Mariano Rodríguez de Olmedo y Valle.** Secular priest. Native of Guancargui, in Peru. Nominated by His Majesty for bishop of this diocese on May 21, 1815, and consecrated in Madrid August 4, 1816. In consequence of a decree of the Cortes of December 12, 1820, he resigned the bishopric, and had to pass to the island of Santo Domingo, Dr. Don Manuel Joaquín Santaella, canon, purveyor, and capitular vicar, remaining as governor of the diocese as vacant see until April 25, 1823, when the precentor Dr. Don José Lorenzo Rendón was elected for the said charge. With the triumph of the absolute regime Dr. Don Mariano Rodríguez de Olmedo y Valle recovered his bishopric, and again took possession of his see December 4, 1823. Promoted to the archbishopric of Cuba by royal decree of October 8, 1824, he named as ecclesiastical governor Dr. Andrade (October 31, 1824), and left for his new diocese. On May 17, 1825, Dr. Andrade handed over his jurisdiction to Dr. Gutiérrez de Arroyo, archdeacon, but the diocese having been declared vacant by royal decree of July 20, on account of approval having been given to the archiepiscopal bulls of Olmedo, Dr. Don Nicolás Alonso de Andrade y San Juan was named definitively as ecclesiastical governor, purveyor and capitulary vicar on September 9.

XLIV. July 18, 1826. **Dr. Don Pedro Gutiérrez y Cos.** Secular priest. Native of the city of Piura in Peru, where he was born October 24, 1750. Appointed and preconized as Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Leo XII in June 1826, he took possession of his diocese July 18 of the same year. He finished the construction of the Seminary and opened it on October 12, 1832, the establishment of which, solicited from 1712 by Bishop Urtiaga, obstructed then by the military government, and zealously undertaken by Bishops Zengotita and Arizmendi, especially by the latter, was to lead to the inclusion in its professorial halls of such competent and venerable teachers as Fr. Ángel de la Concepción Vázquez, native of Juncos, and Dr. Don Juan Francisco Jiménez, of Cabo Rojo. This good bishop died April 9, 1833, Dr. Don Nicolás Alonso de Andrade y San Juan remaining as ecclesiastical governor, purveyor, and vicar-general of the vacant See.

XLV. **Dr. Don Miguel Laborda y Galindo.** Secular priest. Canon of Zaragoza. Appointed Bishop of Porto Rico by His Holiness Gregory XVI in 1833. This bishop, like several others, did not take possession of his diocese, but it is not just that on that account the ecclesiastical chronicles should be silent concerning him, and that his name should not figure in catalogues of the prelates of Porto Rico; with all the more reason as he left a generous and charitable trace of his election to this diocese, the equal of which is not to be found among the other bishops-elect who did not occupy their Sees; he bequeathed to

twelve poor men and twelve poor women of this city 3,840 reales, which were distributed fittingly, according to the accounts of those favored, of which there is evidence under date of November 14, 1870 in the capitulary archives. Doctor Andrade continued as ecclesiastical governor until his death on August 21, 1845, when he was succeeded by Dr. Don Juan Francisco Jiménez.

XLVI. December 31, 1846. Don Fr. Francisco de la Puente. Dominican. Native of Saldaña, in Old Castile, where he was born April 2, 1779. Appointed Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Gregory XVI, he was consecrated in Madrid October 28, 1846. He reached Porto Rico December 31 of the same year, but did not take possession until January 5, 1847. The illnesses which he suffered in this island obliged him to obtain permission to go to Spain, where he arranged his transfer to the See of Segovia (1848) where he died in 1854. After his transfer the licentiate Don Dionisio González de Mendoza remained as ecclesiastical governor and capitulary vicar in the vacant see.

XLVII. February 10, 1849. Dr. Don Gil Esteve y Tomás. Secular priest. Native of Torá, in Catalonia, where he was born December 16, 1798. Appointed and preconized in Rome as Bishop of Porto Rico by Pope Pius IX on July 3, 1848. Consecrated in Tarragona October 8 of the same year, he reached Porto Rico February 10, 1849. He governed this diocese until the second of August, 1853, when he went by permission to the Peninsula, leaving as ecclesiastical governor Father Don José Oriol y Costa, who governed until May 16, 1855, when the chapter elected Dr. Don Gerónimo Mariano Usera y Alarcón. While in Spain, Bishop Gil Esteve was promoted to the See of Terranova, where he died in 1858. In the meantime, by royal order received August 4, 1855, this diocese was declared a vacant See and the licentiate Don Dionisio González de Mendoza was elected to govern it, which he did until January 8, 1856, when Dr. Don Gerónimo Mariano Usera y Alarcón, dean of the cathedral, was named, who governed it until August 5, 1856, on which date he was succeeded in said government by the very intelligent Dr. Don Antonio Cerezano, who figured later with such honor in the cathedral of Santo Domingo. Bishop Gil Esteve in his short episcopate showed his capacity, his industry, and his virtue. He reorganized the seminary, obtaining by royal decree of May 2, 1851 the right to confer the degree of Bachelor in Philosophy, created special chairs, and chose excellent professors, as a result of which this seminary rose to the highest standing among the teaching centers of the whole island. He reconstructed in great part the cathedral and the episcopal palace, and edited a catechism of Christian doctrine which for many years was the textbook throughout the island.

XLVIII. May 27, 1857. Don Fr. Pablo Benigno Carrión de Málaga. Capuchin monk. Native of Málaga, where he was born February 13, 1798. Son of Don José Carrión and Doña María de Luna, both of the noblest stock of that city, and, on the paternal side, of naval ancestry, a career which this great bishop of Porto Rico was to follow in his youth, and whose showy uniform he exchanged, by an irresistible vocation, for the coarse wool of the sons of St. Francis, receiving the habit on October 5, 1816, and professing on the sixth of the same month, taking the name of Pablo. Confessor of the auxiliary bishop of Santiago in Galicia. Master of novices in Seville. In compliance with the desires of his

younger sister, who was married in Porto Rico, he transferred his residence here, reaching the island on February 18, 1842. Named priest administrator and coadjutor of the parish of San Germán. Rector of the Conciliar Seminary, he obtained by royal order the academic validity of the degrees of Bachelor of Arts which the seminary conferred. He resigned the rectorship and requested the parish of Vieques as a kind of retirement, to which his heart, made for the cloister, aspired. Designated for the mitre of Porto Rico by his predecessor, Bishop Gil Esteve, against his will and solely through obedience he accepted the appointment as Bishop of Porto Rico. Nominated by Her Majesty Isabel II, and appointed and preconized in Rome by Pope Pius IX on December 21, 1857, he was consecrated in Madrid in the royal chapel on March 7, 1858, his patroness being the queen herself, by whom all the expenses were borne. Arrived in Porto Rico May 27, 1858, in the steamship *Almogaver*. Dr. Father Don Diego de Alba had already taken possession in his name and by his order on the tenth of the same month. He brought the Jesuits to Porto Rico, to whom he entrusted the seminary and the Church of San José. On July 20 he blessed the recently constructed church of the Carmelite Sisters; on the twenty-second he declared abolished the old dependent parish of the chapter, and in its place created another which was to function independently of the chapter, although with the same name and appellation, and at the same time erected the new parish of St. Francis in the church and former monastery of the Franciscans. In December, 1862, he proposed the acquisition of the present beautiful pavement of the cathedral. On June 19, 1863, he presented to the cathedral the statue of St. John the Baptist, which he sent for from Spain, and brought from Spain in the same year the Sisters of Charity, who have rendered such useful services.

In August, 1865, he founded with his own funds the Infant Asylum, to which he donated, as a holy relic, the head of St. Marianus; previously he had sent to the cathedral the body of St. Pius, martyr, which he brought from Rome and had obtained from Pope Pius IX. On November 5, 1865 having finished the work of restoration of the Cathedral Church, he was consecrated with due solemnity. In September, 1869, he attended the Ecumenical Council at the Vatican as representative of his diocese. Orator, academician (active member) of the Royal Academy of Belles Lettres (Buenas Letras), Knight Grand Cross of Isabel the Catholic, and Archbishop-elect of Santiago de Cuba, which he did not accept. He had a tragic end, dying as a result of the overturning of the carriage in which he was riding, on his last pastoral visit, while leaving Fajardo for Luquillo, on November 29, 1871. His body was brought to this city and received burial in the crypt of the bishops in the Chapel of Providence.

XLIX. March 5, 1875. Don Fr. Juan Antonio Puig y Monserrat. Franciscan. Native of Felanitz, in the island of Mallorca, where he was born July 20, 1813. Received orders and professed in his order by the year 1823, and came to Porto Rico, fixing his residence in Ponce, by 1840, founding there an excellent primary school and some classes of secondary education, which had great success in that vicinity. He personally acquired universal sympathy on account of his affable character. He later traveled in Europe and the United States, perfecting himself in the knowledge of the French and English languages.

He was later pastor in Patillas, Juana Díaz, and Aguadilla, and in 1861 was named parish priest of Our Lady of Los Remedios. In 1869 he was elect-deputy to the Cortes for the district of the capital city by the votes of the Conservative party. His old friendship with General Prim obtained for him the nomination for Bishop of Porto Rico, and he was preconized on January 16, 1874. He took possession March 5, 1875, and during his episcopacy occupied himself with a strong hand with ecclesiastical discipline. He was faithful to friendships, simple and plain in his dealings, very generous, and this caused him to be badly deceived by subordinates. He died January 2, 1894 and is buried in the crypt of the bishops of Porto Rico, in the Chapel of Providence.

L. November 11, 1894. **Don Fr. Toribio Minguella de la Merced.** Augustinian. Native of Igea de Cornago, in Logroño, where he was born in April, 1836. In 1854 he took the habit of his order and in 1859 he was ordained priest. He was sent to the Philippines by his superiors; discharged important offices as parochial commissary, provincial vicar, rector of the college of San Millán de la Cogulla, definitor, voting prior, and chronicle of his order. In May, 1894, he was proposed by Her Majesty for the See of Porto Rico, and having been preconized by His Holiness Leo XIII, he received consecration on August 5 of the same year, and took possession of his diocese November 11. On March 24, 1898, he was preconized Bishop of Sigüenza, taking possession on June 13 following. A man of extraordinary talent and vast learning, he enjoyed fame as a savant, no less than as an eloquent sacred orator. His numerous scientific and literary works, as well as his pastorals, full of evangelical unction, testify to his piety and wisdom.

LI. **Don Fr. Francisco J. Valdés.** Augustinian. Native of Asturias. Named in 1897, he resigned without taking possession on account of the change in national sovereignty of the island (Spanish-American War).

LII. December 20, 1899. **Dr. James Humbert Blenk, S. M.** Native of Neustadt, kingdom of Bavaria, where he was born July 28, 1856, the son of James Blenk and Catherine Wigman, Protestants, in which communion they remained until their death. He was the youngest of seventeen children and a twin, but his twin brother died at six months. This German family migrated to New Orleans, and there the boy, James, surrounded by Catholic influences, and himself of a mystic, though practical temperament, adopted the Catholic religion, and with such fervor, that he entered the ecclesiastical state with an irresistible and devout inclination. He was baptized at twelve years of age, and later entered the Redemptorist Order. He studied at Charlewick, Mich. The Marist Fathers, whose order he had entered, sent him to France to make his novitiate, and afterwards to the Catholic University of Ireland. On August 16, 1885 he was ordained priest by Archbishop Redwood, New Zealand, a notable Marist, and was assigned to Louisiana. As professor in Jefferson College he excelled in such a noteworthy way that he was named president of the college in 1891. He was named for various and delicate missions in France, England, and Ireland. In February, 1897, he was named pastor of the parish of the Name of Mary, in Algiers. When Monsignor Chapelle was named Apostolic Delegate of Cuba and Porto Rico, he named

Fr. Blenk as auditor of the delegation, and later recommended him as Bishop of Porto Rico, as the man called by his talent and ability to discharge such an honorable, and in those days so difficult a task. Appointed for this diocese, he was consecrated on July 2, 1899, and took possession on December 20. He worked consistently to rescue his diocese from the pitiable state into which the change of sovereignty had plunged it. The island had been swept by a hurricane, which had caused terrible damage; by great patience he collected \$30,000 to relieve the needy poor. In his time the lawsuit of the Church with the State over the properties of the Church usurped by the government was settled favorably, and thus he raised funds with which he made headway against the great expenses which they had caused. Among the many good things which he did, there are two, however, which have lent themselves to various interpretations and commentaries, although somewhat unjust. One is the removal of the Carmelite nuns to San Germán, but this is explained by the ruined state of their convent; and the other is the suppression of the seminary, which, however, the lack of resources for its maintenance, and the small number of seminarians, which then existed, etc., might justify. This good prelate, a linguist par excellence, had a good command of the Spanish language, and delivered sermons in that language with relative ease. When Archbishop Chapelle of New Orleans died, he was promoted to that diocese, and left Porto Rico April 20, 1906, leaving in the island a most pleasant impression of his episcopate because of his virtues, his talent, and his amiability, and his transfer was deeply regretted, although there was sincere joy over his deserved promotion. He died in New Orleans April 20, 1917.

LIII. March 6, 1907. Dr Don. Guillermo Ambrosio Jones y Hurley. Augustinian. Native of Cambridge, New York, U. S. A., where he was born July 21, 1865, son of Mr. Thomas Jones and Mrs. Mary (Hurley) Jones. Made his special studies at Villanova College, Pennsylvania. Received the priesthood at the hands of the Most Rev. Patrick J. Ryan, Archbishop of Philadelphia, on March 15, 1890. Held the following charges: assistant in St. Augustine's parish, Philadelphia; assistant in St. Nicholas's parish, Atlantic City, N. J.; master of novices of Villanova monastery; rector of the parish of Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje, Havana, Cuba; president of St. Augustine's College, Havana, Cuba, where he was when he was appointed and preconized in Rome by Pope Pius X as Bishop of Porto Rico, on January 12, 1907, and consecrated in the cathedral of Havana by Mgr. José Aversa, Archbishop of Sardés and Apostolic Delegate of Cuba and Porto Rico, assisted by the bishops of Havana and Camaguey, February 24, 1907. He arrived in Porto Rico and took possession of his diocese March 6, 1907. On March 4, 1908, he authorized the transferral of the remains of Juan Ponce de León from the former monastery of St. Thomas Aquinas, today the parish church of San José, to the cathedral, which transfer was carried out August 12, 1908, in solemn procession, by all the city, in symbolical celebration of the fourth centenary of that famous day on which Christian civilization began in Porto Rico. On September 29, 1910, in his cathedral. Bishop Mgr. Vuylsteke, Dutch Dominican, appointed to the See of Curaçao was consecrated. The consecration was performed by Archbishop Aversa, who

happened to be in Porto Rico, assisted by Mgr. Jones and Mgr. Berríos. In 1911 the bishop erected as a parish, with the title of San José, the former conventual church of St. Thomas Aquinas. On April 13, 1912 he embarked for New York to join the other pilgrims and travel to Rome to make the visit *ad limina*, which he accomplished with all felicity. He organized the celebration of the Fourth Centenary of the erection of this diocese, the oldest in America, with a magnificent civil-religious festival which began on Wednesday, the nineteenth of February, and ended on Tuesday, the fourth of March, 1913, the following prelates, invited by Bishop Jones, attending: His Eminence Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York; His Grace James H. Blenk, Archbishop of New Orleans and former Bishop of Porto Rico; His Excellency Sr. Don Francisco Barnada y Aguilar, Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba; Sr. Don Manuel Ruiz y Rodríguez, Bishop of Pinar del Río; Bishop John Edward Gunn, Bishop of Natchez; Rev. Fr. Tomás Lorente, vice-provincial of the Dominicans of New Orleans; and the suite corresponding to these prelates and high personages of the Catholic Church, who for the first time in the historic life of Porto Rico had been able to meet on this island at such a fortunate moment. On Tuesday, March 25, was erected and blessed by the Bishop the magnificent marble monument installed in the cathedral by the Spanish Club (Casino) of San Juan de Puerto Rico to guard the venerated remains of the conqueror, settler, and first governor of Porto Rico and discoverer and first governor (*adelantado*) of Florida and Bimini, the illustrious Ponce de León. On April 20, 1913, the Bishop blessed and handed over to the Carmelite Sisters of the Convent of San José of this city, who were temporarily in San Germán, their present convent of Santurce, which he had built for them, with all the conveniences and comfort that modern times demand. On May 15, 1913, he consecrated the beautiful Gothic chapel of the College of the Sacred Heart, established in Santurce. He re-established in January, 1915, the seminary suppressed during the previous episcopate, whereby he opened anew the doors of the Church to the sons of the island. Finally, becoming aware of the need of new constitutions by which to regulate this diocese, both because of the time which had passed since the last synod and because the change of sovereignty in Porto Rico implied a complete transformation in the ecclesiastical order, he conceived the idea of holding a diocesan synod, which was realized with all felicity and with the greatest success during the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth of January of the present year (1917). This synod will fix for a long time the regimen which is to preside over all the acts of the ecclesiastical life of the diocese. This great prelate, who to his great intelligence and industry adds the most fortunate aptitude for economic questions, increased and assured the revenues of the Church which are rather slender in Porto Rico, and he has been able to arrange the income and expenditures in such a way that not only can all the parishes develop with a certain ease, but also in such a way as to permit him to provide for aged and poor priests, who find the most secure and kindly asylum in his episcopal palace, which has been converted by his noble generosity into the hospice for virtuous and infirm old age.
